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DATE: March 16, 2020

TO: All Lexington City Schools Families
FROM: Lexington City Schools Administration

RE: School Closure Plans

We hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and well. As we navigate the effects of COVID-19 and our school closure, we hope to keep you well informed and updated regarding student supports during this time. As a reminder, all Lexington City schools will be closed March 16-March 27, and any plans for re-opening will be communicated with you as soon as we are informed. The school closure includes all after-school events and activities. Special education meetings and testing will continue as scheduled unless otherwise communicated with you. Our buildings and offices will be open daily at the following times: Schools are open 7:45AM-3:45PM. The school board office is open daily from 8:00AM-4:30PM.

It is important to continue at-home learning during the time that our schools are closed. We are providing students with at-home learning packets so that students can continue to practice and review learned skills and concepts while away from our schools. Please note that no new content will be delivered for at-home learning at this time, and we do not expect at-home learning to replace a day at school. Rather, we encourage you and your child to share meaningful learning experiences that will help your child stay current with skills and content. We will not be collecting or grading work completed at home. We do ask that students read each day and return any books or textbooks when schools reopen.

During the following times this week, parents may come to the gym entrance at their child's school to pick up at-home learning packets and student medications from the school clinic:

- ❖ Tuesday, March 17th 11:00AM-1:00PM
- ❖ Wednesday, March 18th 11:00AM-1:00PM

Being mindful of our current situation with school closures and social distancing, please plan to enter the gym doors, see a staff member to pick up at-home packets and medications, and exit the gym.

We are making plans to provide pick-up meal services to student families during the school closure. Please remain alert for announcements coming soon regarding days, times, and pick-up locations for meal services.

During this time, it is important for us to emphasize the social and emotional health of your children and family members. General recommendations from the CDC:

- ❖ Remain calm and reassuring. Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up on cues and the conversations you have with them and with others. Be honest. If you don't know the answer to their question, or how to answer, tell them you can find some information so you can both learn.
- ❖ Make time to be available to listen and talk. Let children know it's ok to be worried and that talking about it can help.
- ❖ Avoid language that might blame others and lead to stigma. Remember that viruses can make anyone sick.
- ❖ Pay attention to what children see and hear on television, radio, or online. Consider reducing screen time focused on COVID-19. Too much information on one topic can lead to anxiety.
- ❖ Provide information that is honest and accurate. Give children information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of each child.
- ❖ Teach children everyday actions that can reduce the spread of germs, including good handwashing, covering sneezes and coughs, and using a tissue.

We ask families to please keep in mind the travel guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control, including the directive to self-quarantine for 14 days after travel to certain high-risk countries. Please stay current with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Virginia Department of Health. Please see the resource links below:

- ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- ❖ The Virginia Department of Health website and phone numbers:
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>
1-877-ASK-VCH3 (1-877-275-8343)

Finally, a few additional resources for families during this time:

- ❖ Rockbridge Area Relief Association, located at 350 Spotswood Drive in Lexington, offers a food bank for local families. Please visit www.raralex.org or call 540-463-6943 for more details.
- ❖ Please be aware that Comcast is providing free internet service to low income families for 60 days. To sign up for this service, you can call 1-855-846-8376 (English) or 1-855-765-6995 (Spanish).
- ❖ Please see the City of Lexington webpage at www.lexingtonva.gov for current information and announcements regarding COVID-19 effects in our community.

Thank you for your partnership as we continue to prepare for and respond to this evolving situation. Please stay tuned for additional updates and information. We appreciate your cooperation and support during this time and always.